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ter is transmitted by hereditariness. It would still be requisite to investigate whether the laws of atavism do not reproduce at the end of several generations the ancient type which had momentarily been altered. This is sufficient to show all the interest which attaches to the study of atavism.

These are the chief questions which general anthropology comprises within its domain. We have preferentially cited such as, without distinction, interest all men of science, and such which possess a special interest for the physiologist and the physician; but we have been obliged to pass over a great number, in order not to lengthen this article. The reader will easily fill up the gap, if he attends to the definition we have given of general anthropology, or to that other less rigorous but, perhaps more striking, definition—*general anthropology is the biology of the human species.*

DAVIS AND THURNAM'S CRANIA BRITANNICA.*

OF the various branches of the science of anthropology, none, except some of those which deal with prehistoric man, can be said to have been originated in our own time, but several have received a development altogether out of proportion to their previous condition. Among these is craniology, the students of which have within our own times found it necessary, in order to express their ideas with precision and brevity, to coin an altogether new system of nomenclature, an introduction to even a portion of which, as exhibited, say, in Professor Owen's note to Du Chaillu's *Journey to Ashango-land*, would have been enough, one would think, to make the hair of the venerable Blumenbach to stand on end. The heads of Blumenbach and Morton adorn the title-cover of each decade of the *Crania Britannia*, in token, we suppose, of the admiration entertained by the accomplished authors of the work for the father and grandfather of their science. They were great men, and their names will live long; but the present generation have the advantage of standing on their shoulders, and certainly see much further than they could. Must we add, that the prospect unfolded to them remains yet misty and obscure? We fear so. None of the great generalisations of craniologists appear to us so securely fixed

* *Crania Britannica, Delineations and Descriptions of the Skulls of the Aboriginal and Early Inhabitants of the British Islands, etc., etc.* By Joseph Barnard Davis, M.D., F.S.A., etc., and John Thurnam, M.D., F.R.C.P.L., F.S.A., etc. London: 1856-65.

that men may safely and certainly build on them. Morton's views on the Egyptian and American skulls, for example, though ingenious and striking, are still as doubtful as when he put them forth; Retzius's classification has been shown to be erroneous in many particulars, for example, in the glaring instance of the brachycephaly of the Germans, whom he believed to be long-heads; and the value of his very basis of classification is impugned mildly by Barnard Davis, and more roundly by Professor Owen: and lastly, Dr. Thurnam's beautiful hypothesis of longbarrow-longheads has not convinced even his own colleague.

We may drag the ocean of phenomena long for valuable scientific generalisations; but if our net is of the right mesh, we shall surely in the end make captures worth striving for. The question is, whether the method employed by our authors is a good one, or is the best available? We think it is. Through years of patient labour Drs. Davis and Thurnam had been accumulating the stores of which samples are presented us in these volumes, copied with marvellous exactness by the unerring pencil of Ford. Never before, certainly, had representations of skulls been produced that could vie, in beauty and accuracy, with the sixty that form the texts on which the authors so lovingly and learnedly discourse. Nor do we think that any of the works on a similar plan with the *Crania Britannica*, which in several countries have followed and been as it were engendered by it, are comparable with it in this respect, nor indeed in the magnitude of the work or its general value; though such volumes as those of Nicolucci, and Ecker's *Crania Germaniæ Meridio-Occidentalis*, and those of some Swiss anthropologists, etc., are all of great value and interest, and too little known and studied in this country.

Certainly the interest felt among us in anthropological studies and pursuits increases year by year. Witness the long and ever-increasing list of fellows of our society, and the various stages of the warfare carried on at the meetings of the British Association for some years past, during which the progress of enlightenment and public interest in the subject has scarcely ever sustained even a momentary check. Who, two or three short years ago, would have dreamed of an Anthropological Congress in Dundee?

It is hard, however, and tells very unfavourably upon our progress, that considerations of expense hinder, in this country more than in most others that boast themselves civilised, the publication of works like the present. To bring out a costly volume by subscription requires an immense deal of trouble on the part of author or friends to secure the requisite number of supporters; and we doubt very much whether even the long array of subscribers, headed with the

names of imperial and royal highnesses, and the titles of metropolitan and university libraries, can have saved Dr. Davis harmless in the matter of expense merely; while of course all the labour of many years which is here concentrated and condensed, must be expected to go entirely unrewarded, save by the scientific reputation, not merely British but world-wide, that has accrued to the authors, and by the consciousness of having made a donation to anthropology the like of which she had not yet received.

The book furnishes a very favourable example of the results of the method of hunting science in couples, which is much more practised abroad than in England. No scientific man, or member of the medical profession, would have any difficulty in naming dozens of instances in which two savans have worked together amicably and with reciprocal benefit for the elucidation of some obscure department of their science, or for the publication of their separate investigations. So much has this been the custom in France, but still more in Germany, that there are numbers of names familiar to us as household words, every one of which cannot be pronounced without suggesting that of a collaborator, his twin in reputation now and for ever. Who can think of Bidder without Schmidt, or of Thenard without Gay-Lussac? To most of us Neubauer is inconceivable without Vogel, and Rilliet without Barthez, or Bernutz without Goupil; and finally, it was but the other day that Fick and Wislicenus, like a double star rising over the Faulhorn, illuminated the field of food chemistry.

We suppose it is the bristly individualism of our countrymen which hinders them from entering into similar combinations, for nothing short of the constantly imminent peril involved in a scramble over the Rocky Mountains, or a sojourn among Ethiopian despots of the Theodorus and Kamrasi types, seems capable of welding together permanently a couple of English savans. Much honour, therefore, is surely due to our pair of authors, who, without sacrificing to each other their independence in matters of doubt and opinion, have been able, through the whole course of a joint labour, occupying several years, to work in perfect parallelism of purpose and execution, dovetailing, so to speak, the results of their separate studies and observations, so as round into one perfect and harmonious whole the greatest work of modern English, perhaps we should say European, anthropology.

The original idea, and the general plan and responsibility of the work, belong, we believe, to Dr. Davis, but Dr. Thurnam had formed a separate scheme before the union of the two. The descriptions of the skulls are due, some to the one, some to the other anthropologist. The remainder of the text consists of nine chapters, of which the fifth, which is by far the longest, and is entitled the "Historical Ethno-

graphy of Britain," is the contribution of Dr. Thurnam. It contains an elaborate, learned, and beautifully illustrated account of all that is known of the earlier inhabitants of Britain, down to and including the Roman period. The remaining chapters we owe to Dr. Davis. They include, besides some shorter and less important ones, a very interesting treatise on distortions of the skull, a subject well known to be eminently the author's own; an ethnographical sketch of the successive populations of Britain, and a somewhat compressed but valuable account of the distinctive physical and moral characteristics of its present inhabitants, embodying not only his own observations but those of numerous other anthropologists and naturalists in various parts of the country. We have already hinted at the existence of certain differences of opinion between the authors. These in no degree impair the coherence and consistency of their work, in which, however, may be found the greater part of the evidence which, variously interpreted, has served as the foundation of the theories alluded to. Dr. Thurnam's views as to the existence of successive races in the so-called Celtic period, of which the earliest was short in stature, short-faced, and long-headed; and the second tall, large-featured, and short-headed, have been made fully known to the Fellows of the Anthropological Society, and to the scientific world at large, by his elaborate papers on the subject in the Society's *Memoirs*. We believe he adheres to the theory there expressed, which has been strengthened to some extent by certain of the Rev. W. Greenwell's discoveries in Yorkshire. On the other hand, Dr. Davis seems to remain unconvinced of its truth, attaching much greater importance than his colleague does to the quasi-accidental variations of the form of the skull that occur in every race, as well as to the influence of certain causes of distortion, developmental, nutritive, or posthumous. And Dr. Hunt's discoveries in the barrows of Dorsetshire appear to strengthen Dr. Davis's defensive position. With respect to the interesting controversy as to the relative proportions of Saxon and British blood in the modern English nation, on which so much light has been recently thrown by Mr. Pike, these volumes supply a mine of information, to be found chiefly in the chapters which bear the mark of Dr. Davis. On the whole, we should say that he attributes more importance to the Teutonic blood-element in England than Mr. Pike would probably be willing to allow.

J. B.
